



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

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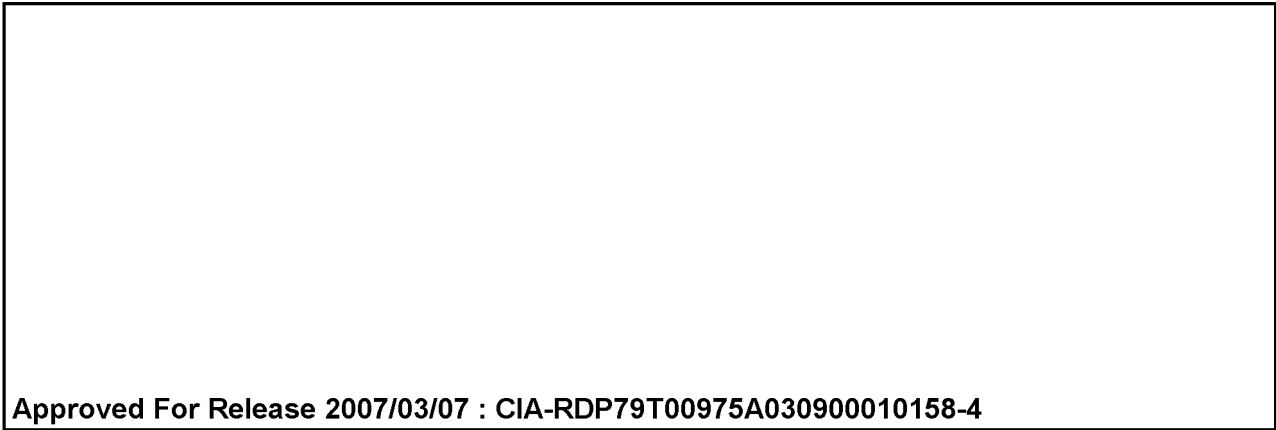
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## SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA: Ogaden Tensions

*A continued high level of Somali-supported guerrilla activity in the Ogaden and Ethiopian military retaliation have raised tension in the area to the highest point in several months. The Somalis fear that intensified Ethiopian bombing raids in northern Somalia may be a prelude to major cross-border ground attacks. Ethiopian Chairman Mengistu's warning on 1 January that Somali-supported guerrilla activity had become intolerable will fuel Somali anxieties. With its major military resources still committed in Eritrea, however, Ethiopia's short-term strategy toward Somalia is likely to emphasize selective, although perhaps increasingly large, retaliatory airstrikes coupled with a strong anti-Somali propaganda campaign.*

Somalia, far less capable militarily than Ethiopia, has gone to great lengths in recent weeks to call attention to the Ethiopian threat. It has issued increasingly urgent demarches to the UN, the Organization of African Unity, and the Arab League protesting the Ethiopian bombing as well as the alleged Ethiopian buildup near Somalia's northwestern border. Senior Somali officials have voiced the same fears to US and other Western diplomats in Mogadiscio and have demanded public condemnation of Ethiopian actions and diplomatic pressure on Ethiopia.

Somali leaders believe Ethiopia's actions are designed, among other things, to embarrass and weaken President Siad's regime just before its national party congress, scheduled to open on 20 January. If that is part of Ethiopia's objective, the strategy seems to be having some effect. Despite a news blackout on the airstrikes, they--and Somalia's inability to defend against them--have become common knowledge. Protest demonstrations demanding greater protection against the raids have reportedly broken out in the Hargeisa area.

We have no evidence to support Somali allegations of a major Ethiopian buildup in the area between Jijiga and Borama but Ethiopian cross-border airstrikes have become more frequent in recent weeks in retaliation for stepped-up infiltration and tactical activity by Somali-supported insurgents in the eastern and southern Ogaden.

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If, as is likely, guerrilla activity continues unabated in the Ogaden, Ethiopia will almost certainly increase its air attacks. Ethiopia may also encourage anti-Siad dissident groups based in Ethiopia to step up their activities against Somalia. [REDACTED]

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Senior Ethiopian officials, on the other hand, have privately assured US and other Western diplomats that Ethiopia--despite repeated Somali provocations--has no intention of invading Somalia. With its best combat units still committed in Eritrea and in the absence of any evidence of significant actual or planned redeployments to the Ogaden, Ethiopia would appear incapable of mounting any major, sustained ground action against Somalia in the near term. [REDACTED]

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ALGERIA: Succession Developments

*//Algerian acting President Bitat is following the constitutional process in preparing to select a successor to President Boumediene. The process must be completed by 10 February if it is to satisfy constitutional requirements.//* [REDACTED]

An Algerian Embassy official in Washington has disclosed that the National Liberation Front, Algeria's only party--which has not met in plenary session in 14 years--will convene on 25 January to reconstitute the defunct national party organization and to fill vacant posts. A special congress--perhaps limited to higher party officials--will then be held to nominate a single presidential candidate whose mandate would be confirmed in a general election the first week of February. [REDACTED]

*//The ruling National Council of the Revolution this week appointed a 37-member preparatory commission representing diverse regional and ethnic groups to prepare the groundwork for the congress. The commission will lend an aura of popular participation in the succession process, but its mandate will probably be restricted to organizational matters.//* [REDACTED]

*//The National Council is maintaining an outward show of unity despite the frictions created by the behind-the-scenes maneuvering for power. The Algerian diplomat believes the new leadership will be collegial and composed of Council members. His assessment is plausible although a dominant figure seems likely to emerge eventually.//* [REDACTED]

No front runner for President is now discernible. The most prominent candidates are still party chief Yahiaoui, Interior Minister Abdelghani, Foreign Minister Bouteflika, and Colonel Bencherif, ex-commander of the gendarmerie. Unsuccessful presidential contenders may be appointed to the key posts of Vice President, Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and armed forces Chief of Staff. [REDACTED]

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BRIEFS

Turkey

The resignation of a parliamentary deputy from the Turkish ruling Republican Peoples Party leaves the government of Prime Minister Ecevit with 225 votes--one less

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than a quorum. The opposition parties may be able to paralyze the government if they follow through on their threat to boycott the assembly. To bring down the government, however, they would have to obtain 226 votes in a no confidence motion. [REDACTED]

Unless the deputy returns to the National Assembly, the government's ability to obtain a quorum could depend on two members of the Kurdish minority who resigned from the Peoples Party and were elected as independents. Both are generally considered sympathetic toward the party, but one recently criticized both Ecevit and the party. [REDACTED]

#### France

//The first operational squadron of 12 Super Etendards, France's first naval combat aircraft capable of delivering nuclear weapons, will join the aircraft carrier Clemenceau next month. The aircraft will enable the Navy to carry out tactical nuclear strike missions far from Europe as well as enhance its conventional weapons capability.// [REDACTED]

//France may be modifying its doctrine of tactical nuclear warfare to accommodate this new capability. French policy has long tied the use of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe to escalation toward a strategic conflict, but a defense spokesman has hinted that France could possibly use tactical nuclear weapons at sea in areas distant from Europe without necessarily signaling a move toward strategic nuclear warfare.// [REDACTED]

//France recently completed overhauling the Clemenceau and fitting it with storage facilities for six- to 30-kiloton nuclear bombs. France's other aircraft carrier, the Foch, is scheduled for a similar overhaul to prepare it for Super Etendards next year.// [REDACTED]

#### Togo

//Senior Togolese military officers may be plotting to topple pro-Western President Eyadema as early as mid-January, according to US Embassy sources in Lome. The officers are dissatisfied with Eyadema's inability to make real progress with Togo's serious economic problems, his heavy-handed measures against alleged security threats, and his unwillingness to accept criticism or advice. Eyadema recently intensified the military's unhappiness



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by attempting to link a ranking army officer and prominent Togolese families with a 1977 assassination plot against him.//

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//Eyadema, who has also lost considerable civilian support, attempted to frighten off would-be conspirators by announcing last week that the US and UK warned him of the plot and by implying that Washington and London would help forestall any future moves against his government. Even if Eyadema can ride out his current storm, his problems--especially in the economic area--are likely to grow in the next several months. Given the current mood of the military, a further deterioration in the economy or some major disruption, such as an oil shortage, could prompt the military to oust Eyadema.//

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